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Forty-eighth session
SIXTH COMMITTEE

# ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Secretariat

1. In order to assist the Sixth Committee in the organization of its work, the Secretariat finds it appropriate, in the light of General Assembly resolutions 1898 (XVIII) of 11 November 1963 and 32/71 of 9 December 1977 and of rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to draw the Sixth Committee's attention to the following.

## I. ITEMS ALLOCATED TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 September 1993, the General Assembly decided to allocate to the Sixth Committee 12 items. The titles of these items and their numbers are reproduced in the letter dated 24 September 1993 from the President of the Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/48/1).

## II. DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO THE ITEMS ALLOCATED TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

3. The following table lists the documents of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee. 1/ It includes references to the reports of commissions or committees and the reports which are to be submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions or decisions of preceding sessions of the Assembly, as well as to the documents circulated under the agenda items allocated to the Sixth Committee, in accordance with requests of Member States. The items are arranged in the order in which they appear in the letter dated 24 September 1993 from the President of the Assembly to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/48/1).

| | Projected date of issuance |
|---|---|
| United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law (139) | |
| Report of the Secretary-General (A/48/ ) ..... | November 1993 |
| Measures to eliminate international terrorism (140) | |
| Report of the Secretary-General (A/48/267 and Corr.1 [English only], ..... and A/48/267/Add.1) ..... | Issued 6 October |
| Letter dated 28 June 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/225-S/26009) ..... | Issued |
| Letter dated 5 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/291-S/26242 and Corr.1 and 2 [Spanish Only]) ..... | Issued |
| Letter dated 13 August from the representatives of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/314-S/26304) ..... | Issued |
| Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order (141) | |
| Report of the Secretary-General (A/48/268) ..... | Issued |
| United Nations Decade of International Law (142) | |
| Report of the Secretary-General (A/48/312) ..... | 11 October |
| Report of the Secretary-General on a preliminary operational plan for a possible United Nations congress on public international law (A/48/435) ..... | 6 October |
| Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict (A/48/269) ..... | Issued |
| Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-fifth session (143) | |
| Report of the Commission, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/48/10) ..... | Issued |
| Note by the Secretary-General (A/48/303) ..... | Issued |

| | Projected date of issuance |
|---|---|
| Letter dated 19 May from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/170-S/25801) ..... | Issued |
| **Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-sixth session (144)** | |
| Report of the Commission, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/48/17) ..... | Issued |
| Report of the Secretary-General (A/48/296) ..... | Issued |
| **Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (145)** | |
| Report of the Committee, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session Supplement No. 26 (A/48/26) ..... | November 1993 |
| **Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (146)** | |
| Report of the Special Committee, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 33 (A/48/33) ..... | Issued |
| Letters dated 14 April, 9 and 14 June and 7 September 1993 from the Permanent Representative and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/140-S/25597; A/48/205-S/25923; A/48/209-S/25937 and A/48/379-S/26411) ..... | Issued |
| **Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property (147) 2/** | |
| Letter dated 12 August from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/313) ..... | Issued |
| **Request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (148)** | |
| Letter dated 4 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/291-S/26242 and Corr.1 and 2 [Spanish only]) ..... | Issued |

| | Projected date of issuance |
|---|---|
| Question of responsibility for attacks on United Nations and associated personnel and measures to ensure that those responsible for such attacks are brought to justice (152) | |
| Letter dated 24 June 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/144) ..... | Issued |
| Review of the procedure provided for under article 11 of the statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations (161) | |
| Letter dated 16 September 1993 from the representatives of the Permanent Missions of Australia, Benin, France and Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/232) ..... | Issued |

## III. DATE FOR CONCLUDING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE, ORDER AND APPROXIMATE DATES OF CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS

4. Rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that:

> "Each Main Committee, taking into account the closing date for the session fixed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall adopt its own priorities and meet as may be necessary to complete the consideration of the items referred to it. It shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item."

5. At its 1st meeting, on 22 September 1993, the General Committee decided to recommend that the forty-eighth session should recess not later than Tuesday, 21 December 1993 and conclude on Monday, 19 September 1994. Under the circumstances, it appears advisable that the Sixth Committee should arrange its schedule of meetings in such a way that it will conclude its work not later than Friday, 26 November 1993.

6. Taking into account the pattern followed by the Committee in the order of consideration of items at recent sessions of the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee may wish to consider, for the purpose of adopting its programme of work, the following timetable, drawn up on the basis of previous programmes of work adopted by the Committee, which indicates approximate dates of consideration of the agenda items referred to it.

| Item | Approximate dates of consideration |
|---|---|
| Election of the Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur and organization of work | 24 September |
| Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-sixth session | 4-5 October* |
| Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization | 6-13 October |
| Measures to eliminate international terrorism | 14-18 October |
| Question of responsibility for attacks on United Nations and associated personnel and measures to ensure that those responsible for such attacks are brought to justice | 19-22 October |
| Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-fifth session 3/ | 25 October-5 November |
| [...] | [8-12 November]** |
| Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property | 15 November |
| Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order | 16-17 November |
| United Nations Decade of International Law | 17-18 November |
| United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law | 19 November |
| Request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice | 22 November |

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* During the period 27 September to 7 October 1993, the Working Group on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and their Property should, in accordance with General Assembly decision 47/414 of 25 November 1992, hold at least 10 to 12 meetings (see paragraph 7 (c) below). The Sixth Committee may therefore wish to keep to a minimum the number of meetings it will hold during that period.

** Informal consultations of the Secretary-General on outstanding issues relating to the deep seabed mining provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea are scheduled to take place during the week of 8 to 12 November 1993.

| Item | Approximate dates of consideration |
|---|---|
| Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country ... | 23 November |
| Review of the procedure provided for under article 11 of the statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations . | 24 November |
| Reserve ..... | 26 November |

## IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS AND HOLDING OF CONSULTATIONS

7. In connection with the establishment of subcommittees or working groups and the holding of consultations for the purpose of facilitating the work, it should be borne in mind that the General Assembly took the following decisions at its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions:

(a) Concerning agenda item 141 (Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order), the General Assembly decided to establish a working group of the Sixth Committee to develop the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order (resolution 46/52 of 9 December 1991);

(b) As regards agenda item 142 (United Nations Decade of International Law), the General Assembly requested the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law to continue its work at the forty-eighth session in accordance with its mandate and methods of work (resolution 47/32 of 25 November 1992);

(c) With respect to agenda item 147 (Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property), the General Assembly decided to re-establish at its forty-eighth session, in the framework of the Sixth Committee, the Working Group established at the forty-seventh session, to continue consideration of (i) issues of substance arising out of the draft articles, in order to facilitate the successful conclusion of a convention through the promotion of general agreement; and (ii) the question of the convening of an international conference, to be held in 1994 or subsequently, to conclude a convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property, on the understanding that at the beginning of the forty-eighth session the Working Group will devote two weeks, at least 10 to 12 meetings, starting from 27 September 1993, to concentrated work (decision 47/414 of 25 November 1992).

8. Since the conference services to be provided for meetings of working groups and for the holding of informal consultations are those allocated to the Sixth Committee, it is important that such meetings and consultations be held in place of, rather than in addition to, meetings of the Committee.

## V. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS WITH FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. According to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, "no resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General". It is therefore imperative that the Main Committees allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimates of expenditures by the Secretariat and for their consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and by the Fifth Committee. Under the circumstances, if Friday, 26 November 1993, is accepted as the concluding date for the work of the Sixth Committee (see para. 5 above), Wednesday, 10 November 1993, would have to be considered as the mandatory deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of draft resolutions with financial implications.

## VI. CONFERENCE RESOURCES AVAILABLE

10. The available conference facilities will, in principle, enable the Committee to hold an average of five to six meetings per week; normally, morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

11. In order to avoid difficulties in the organization of meetings of regional groups of the Committee, it is suggested that all requests for such meetings be channelled to the Planning and Meetings Services Section through the Secretary of the Committee.

## Notes

1/ The figure in brackets after the title of each item indicates its number on the agenda of the forty-eighth session. The listing of documents has been done on the basis of communications and reports available as at 24 September 1993.

2/ For the draft articles adopted by the International Law Commission on this topic, see report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-third session, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/46/10). The report of the Working Group established at the forty-seventh session is to be found in document A/C.6/47/L.10.

3/ At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly recommended that the debate on the report of the International Law Commission at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly should commence on 25 October 1993 (resolution 47/33 of 25 November 1992).

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